

**Mayor's column for
The Beacon
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Once again the Memorial Day program at the Edmonds Memorial Cemetery was memorable. The weather cooperated, as it always seems to do! The combination of student musicians and student essays, along with touching tributes to those who are no longer with us, makes for a heartfelt memorial. The Cemetery Board, cemetery staff, and parks staff just make this program better every year.

Each year—this was my tenth in attendance at the event, and my sixth as a participant—exceeds my expectations. It never fails that after the event is over, someone from out of town comes up to me with a story of why they are in Edmonds on Memorial Day instead of their own town or somewhere else. This year was no exception. I was approached by a family from Everett who have been coming to Edmonds for the past three years for the program because they enjoyed it so much. There also were several Edmonds residents who admitted they had never been before but would come back next year.

I have only two regrets about the program. First, with a one-year exception, we have not found a way to televise the event and show it on channel 21 for everyone to see. We will work on that for next year. My second regret is that neither of our local papers covered the program. Such a wonderful event deserves better coverage. My thanks to all who worked on the program as well as those students who presented us with their written and vocal skills.

One final note from the day: as we were wrapping up, my mother, who was there with her husband Jack, came to me and said that he wasn't feeling well and would I take a look at him. I took one look and called 911. The aid crews and medics were quick to respond, and he was transported to Stevens Hospital where he was released a few hours later after testing. So many of you were kind enough to ask if you could help that day, and many more called to check on his condition the next day. Thank you so much for your concern. This is just one more reason why Edmonds is such a great place to live.

I know that I have often thanked you for the kind words you offer about my monthly columns. I have had great feedback about my two-part column on the recent Japan trip, but many of you mentioned that they only read part one or part two and somehow missed the other. Good news! The City's website now archives my monthly columns from The Beacon and The Enterprise, so you can find columns dating back 12 months. So if you missed either of the Japan columns, you can find it at the City's website.

Speaking of Japan, pictures and gifts continue to be sent from our Sister City hosts. They were and continue to be such a giving people. The memories of the trip will not soon fade away. One last thought about the trip: I have heard some rumblings about the fact that I chose to fly first class on my flight and that the City and taxpayers footed the bill. It has been widely reported and bears repeating that every penny spent on this trip by my wife and I, as well as the other 15 delegates, was our personal money. NO taxpayer dollars were expended for this trip by anyone—not airfare, hotel, food or for gifts.

I'll close for this month with a story of elections. A day doesn't go by that someone asks me if I will run again for mayor. My answer is always the same: it's too soon to think about it, since this term expires in December 2007. Some of you may think that because of term limits, I can't run for a third term. At one point in Edmonds' history that was the case. But in 1996 local term limits were found unconstitutional. So the City Council repealed that ordinance. I was on the Council at that time and I vividly remember saying, "Who in their right mind would want to be mayor for three terms anyway?" I guess time will tell the answer to that question!